

AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 42, line 5 as follows:

In order to control the error rate and limit the size of the cache, tags are only kept in the cache 804 if they are active. An idle time out can be selected and adjusted for the switch. For example, if the application the switch is being used for is characterized by long idle periods, it may be necessary to increase the idle time out to accommodate the application. However, if the error rate as measured by the cross-flow detector hit rate is rising, it may be desirable to shorten the idle period to reduce the number of active flows and thus reduce the number of tags in the cache. ~~Alternatively the length of the tag may be adjusted in response the idle period, such that a longer tag will serve to offset the increase in error associated with a longer idle period.~~